
News Release



CONTACT:

Cheryl Collier, 213/236-1942

Jeff Lustgarten, 323/466-3445

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 14, 2007

MARK PISANO TO LEAVE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS AT END OF THE YEAR

Long-time Executive Director of Southern California's Regional Planning Agency Considered Local, National Leader in Promoting Innovative Regional Planning and Policy Initiatives

LOS ANGELES – After serving more than three decades as Executive Director for the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, Mark Pisano will be leaving the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) on December 31 to tackle new challenges. An extensive national search to replace Pisano has been underway for many months, and a decision on his successor is expected to be reached in early 2008.

"Mark's tireless efforts over the last 30 years have resulted in numerous achievements that have improved the quality of life in Southern California," said San Bernardino County Supervisor and SCAG President Gary Ovitt. "Mark's vision, his innovation, and his dedication to both the organization and the region will be missed, but his efforts have laid the foundation for SCAG to address many of the challenges Southern California faces in the coming years."

"As my 31 years as Executive Director comes to a close, I want to thank all of the esteemed local leaders past and present for giving me an opportunity to serve an institution whose work is so important to the future of our region," said Pisano.

Pisano has served as SCAG's Executive Director since 1976, where he has provided critical leadership to advance regional planning as a priority, not only in Southern California but also at the state and national levels. Pisano's accomplishments and contributions are far-reaching and have benefited the six-county Southern California region. He has long advocated for the development of numerous transportation projects, including a dedicated freight rail system that became the *Alameda Corridor*, an extensive commuter rail system that became *Metrolink*, and the development of a system of carpool lanes on freeways throughout Southern California.

(more)

Pisano was also one of the first leaders to strongly promote the development of a regional airport system that decentralizes future passenger and cargo demands rather than increasing growth at Los Angeles International Airport. More recently, Pisano has worked to bring greater attention to the growing air quality health crisis associated with the movement of goods in Southern California.

In the area of land use and community development, Pisano's efforts brought together Southern California's 187 cities and six counties and led the development of an unprecedented growth visioning effort known as *Compass Blueprint*, which has become a model program for national and state planning efforts. Initiated in 2004, *Compass Blueprint* has resulted in a fundamental change in local decision-making, with a renewed focus on mobility, livability, prosperity and sustainability. Pisano's leadership also led to the development of the *State of the Region Report*, the only report which annually assesses Southern California's progress in such key areas as transportation, air quality, housing, crime, employment, income and education.

After his departure from SCAG, Pisano will be undertaking several new challenges which will allow him to continue promoting many of the initiatives he fostered at SCAG. He will be serving as a Distinguished Fellow at USC's Bedrosian Center on Governance and the Keston Institute on Infrastructure and Public Finance, where he will be teaching a course on Regional Governance and Mega-Regions. He will also be a Co-Director of America 2050, a national organization that is dedicated to developing the third century growth strategy for the United States.